

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1–26. (Canceled)

Claim 27-43 (Canceled)

Claim 44 (Currently Amended) An isolated or purified nucleic acid molecule coding for a protein selected from the group consisting of hypothetical protein (Rv3407) from *M. tuberculosis*, and a fusion protein comprising said Rv0068 or said Rv3407 protein, or a combination thereof.

Claim 45 (Previously Presented) A composition comprising at least one nucleic acid molecule of claim 44.

Claim 46 (Canceled)

Claim 47 (Canceled)

Claim 48 (Previously Presented) A composition comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 44, wherein said composition is a pharmaceutical composition further comprising, optionally, a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 49 (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 48, wherein said composition comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and said composition is a vaccine.

Claim 50 (Previously Presented) A composition comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 44, wherein said composition is a diagnostic composition further comprising, optionally, suitable means for detection.

Claim 51 (Previously Presented) A method for the production of a vaccine against a virulent strain of the *M. tuberculosis* comprising the steps of:

A. recombinantly expressing a differentially expressed protein selected from the group consisting of hypothetical protein (Rv3407) from *M. tuberculosis*, or a fusion protein comprising said protein, and

B. combining said recombinantly expressed protein, or said fusion protein with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 52 (Previously Presented) A method for the production of a vaccine against a virulent strain of *M. tuberculosis* comprising combining a vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 44 with a biologically acceptable carrier, wherein said nucleic acid molecule in said vector is placed under the control of an expression control sequence.

Claim 53 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein a nucleic acid molecule encodes said protein, a fusion protein comprising said protein, or a combination thereof.

Claim 54 (Previously Presented) A method of preventing, ameliorating or treating a *M. tuberculosis* induced disease comprising administering an effective amount of the vaccine of claim 49 to a subject to prevent, ameliorate or treat a *M. tuberculosis* induced disease in said subject.

Claim 55 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 54, wherein said *M. tuberculosis* induced disease is ~~selected from the group consisting of tuberculosis, leprosy, tropical skin ulcer, ulceration, abscess, granulomatous (skin) disease, pulmonary disease, lymphadenitis, and cutaneous and disseminated disease.~~

Claim 56 (Currently Amended) A method of detecting the presence of *M. tuberculosis* in a sample, comprising contacting the composition of claim 50 with a sample suspected of containing ~~at least one component associated with *M. tuberculosis*, wherein said component comprises *M. tuberculosis*, pathogenic fragments thereof or derivatives thereof, polynucleotides encoding said *M. tuberculosis*, fragments thereof, derivatives thereof or proteins thereof,~~ and detecting the presence of polynucleotides encoding said *M. tuberculosis* ~~at least one component~~ in said sample.

Claim 57 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 56, wherein said detection of said component associated with *M. tuberculosis* is indicative of an *M. tuberculosis* induced disease selected from the group consisting of tuberculosis, ~~leprosy, tropical skin ulcer, ulceration, abscess, granulomatous (skin) disease, pulmonary disease, lymphadenitis, and cutaneous and disseminated disease.~~

Claims 58-62 (Canceled)

Claim 63 (Currently Amended) An isolated or purified nucleic acid molecule coding for hypothetical protein (Rv3407) from *M. tuberculosis*, or a fusion protein comprising said protein.

Claim 64 (Previously Presented) A composition comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 63, wherein said composition is a pharmaceutical composition further comprising, optionally, a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 65 (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 64, wherein said composition comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and said composition is a vaccine.

Claim 66 (Currently Amended) An isolated or purified nucleic acid molecule coding for oxidoreductase (Rv0068) from *M. tuberculosis*, or a fusion protein comprising said protein.

Claim 67 (Previously Presented) A composition comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 66, wherein said composition is a pharmaceutical composition further comprising, optionally, a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 68 (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 67, wherein said composition comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and said composition is a vaccine.